



# Surveillance Use Policy

Swift Under Door Camera  
San Diego Police Department

## PURPOSE

The Swift Under Door Camera is used to support first responders during critical incidents by providing real-time video imagery via a remotely ground-based robot.

## USE

The San Diego Police Department SWAT Swift Under Door Camera provides remote camera observation and imagery during incidents involving:

- Barricaded suspects
- Hostage incidents, and
- High-risk tactical operations

The following rules and processes are required prior to each use of a Swift Under Door Camera:

- All requests for the Swift Under Door Camera support can be initiated by any personnel who are or plan to be a part of a response to support a specific incident or event with a specific support objective.
- A SWAT supervisor must then evaluate the request and approve the operation prior to deployment to support each individual incident. This SWAT supervisor is specially trained to assess the request and determine if the Swift Under Door Camera operation will comply with the SDPD's authorized uses for this equipment.
- The SWAT unit will ensure that when using the Swift Under Door Camera, all citizen rights will be strictly observed.
- Only authorized members of the SWAT team shall use or be in possession of the Swift Under Door Camera.

The Swift Under Door Camera is only deployed to specific incidents with a specific target or specific objective. Only authorized members of the SWAT team shall use or be in possession of the Swift Under Door Camera.

Department Procedures associated with the use of Swift Under Door Cameras are:

- DP 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing  
Identification marks.

## DATA COLLECTION

The Swift Under Door Camera automatically records video to a 32GB MicroSD card. The camera operator does not manually control when the camera will record video.

The Swift Under Door Camera can observe live video in both the visual spectrum and infrared spectrum, commonly known as "IR," "Night Vision," or "Low-Light" vision and send that video back to the operator's display screen.



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The Swift Under Door Camera can collect video and photographic data in the visual spectrum and the infrared spectrum.

When recording is activated, this captured video is regarded as Digital Media Evidence (DME) and is treated as evidence throughout the remainder of the operation until the DME is properly impounded and documented by the SWAT Officers assigned to the operation.

During all operations, the camera operator is trained to make every effort only to capture visual imagery of the law enforcement contact or intended target of observation to protect the privacy of nearby uninvolved citizens and their property.

All Digital Media Evidence (DME) in the form of video evidence captured by the camera is retained on a Secured Digital (SD) Card. These SD Cards and recording devices are only authorized to be in possession of SDPD SWAT team members who are responsible for collection and proper impounding actions. The SDPD SWAT team members assigned to the camera operation are also responsible for documenting this collection of evidence and the chain of custody associated with impounding the evidence.

All SDPD Swift Under Door Camera DME is impounded in the following way. The DME is extracted from the SD Card and placed onto a portable drive by SWAT personnel. This portable drive is then physically impounded in the SDPD Property room and labeled as impounded property. The original SD Card is purged of data and used again.

## DATA ACCESS

All DME is retained within the physical camera until the SD card is removed from the device. Only SWAT personnel may possess the camera and thus possess collected DME until it is extracted from the SD Card and physically impounded.

Once the DME has been impounded, retention, access, possession, and copying of such evidence are controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification marks.

Only sworn SDPD Police Officers may become part of the SDPD SWAT Unit. All SDPD SWAT personnel must be approved by the SDPD SWAT Lieutenant and the Commanding Officer of the Special Services Division.

Access to recorded data is granted based on the need-to-know/right-to-know principle, ensuring that only individuals directly involved in the negotiation process or authorized supervisors can access the data.

## DATA PROTECTION

All DME is retained within the physical camera until the SD card is removed from the camera and is, therefore, not accessible to anyone remotely.

All DME is retained using an external data recording attached to the camera. This DME is saved on an SD card within the external recording device until it is removed by SWAT personnel for impounding and, therefore, not accessible to anyone remotely.



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Once DME has been impounded, Data protection becomes the responsibility of the Property Unit or the evidence.com system, and all such evidence is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification marks.

## DATA RETENTION

Once DME has been impounded physically, evidence retention is the responsibility of the SDPD Property Unit or the evidence.com system, and all such evidence is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification marks.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Swift Under Door Camera collected DME can only be accessed by SDPD SWAT Unit personnel prior to evidence impound. Once the camera collected DME is impounded by SWAT Personnel into the SDPD Property Room, access to this DME is controlled and regulated by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification marks.

Data may be released to the public via public records request if directly associated with a critical incident defined under California Senate Bill 1421 or in accordance with legal proceedings.

## THIRD PARTY DATA SHARING

SWAT Unit personnel do not share camera-collected DME with third party vendors. All camera-collected DME is impounded physically in the SDPD Property Room.

## TRAINING

All sworn SWAT Officers designated as Swift Under Door Camera operators shall receive appropriate training. Training should include guidance on the use of the Swift Under Door Camera, interaction with dispatch and patrol operations, along with a review of relevant policies and procedures, including this policy and any applicable case law. Training should also address local, state, and federal laws related to the use of video recording equipment and privacy.

## AUDITING AND OVERSIGHT

The SWAT supervisor is assigned the primary oversight and approval of each Swift Under Door Camera deployment and operation. This SWAT supervisor is responsible for ensuring all actions by SWAT Personnel comply with SDPD Department Procedures and the Surveillance Use Policy for each Swift Under Door Camera operation.

This technology is also audited by the 481 report which tracks the usage of the whole department's military related equipment. Furthermore, there are times that an incident commander of a SWAT scene is not part of the SWAT unit but may give permission to use the technology in accordance with this use policy.



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## MAINTENANCE

SDPD Swift Under Door Camera equipment is inspected prior to every operation to ensure it is in proper working condition.